

ETHICS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

Plagiarism allegations launch investigation



LAND

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — An ad hoc committee has been formed by the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville "to investigate the allegations of plagiarism and recommend appropriate action," involving long time ERLC President Richard Land, according to an April 19 statement released by the executive committee.

Land on April 16 issued an apology for material he failed to attribute on his radio show, Richard Land Live!, to a Washington Times columnist. Accusations have been lodged that there are other examples of plagiarism from the radio show.

"We expect Dr. Land and the ERLC to embody the highest moral and ethical standards, as befitting a group of people devoted to following Jesus Christ. Though the source citation standards prevailing among talk radio shows are different from those appli-

cable to journalistic work or to scholarly work in the academic setting, we nevertheless agree with Dr. Land that he could, and should, do a better job in this area. We therefore support Dr. Land's commitment to improve his practices in giving credit to authors he quotes."

The ERLC executive committee, in forming the ad hoc committee, said it was doing so "to ensure no stone is left unturned." The group acknowledged, "We understand that additional instances of this kind in connection with the Richard Land Live! program may come to light."

The ERLC executive committee declined to release the names of the ad hoc committee members, explaining in an April 19 statement: "The members of the ad hoc committee have been chosen by the Chairman to perform an internal investigation on behalf of the ERLC Executive Committee. They will bring their findings

to the full Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will review the information presented and decide the next course of action, including whether any statement or report is to be made to the public."

"Because the ad hoc committee does not carry any independent authority, and any ultimate action will be taken by the Executive Committee, whose names are already in the public domain, the Chairman feels it is best not to publicly release the names of those performing the investigation at this time, as it could serve as a distraction from the very important task at hand."

According to BusinessDictionary.com, an ad hoc committee is "formed for a specific task or objective, and dissolved after the completion of the task or achievement of the objective."

In addition, the executive

see LAND on p. 8

Study: religious persecution rises by nearly one-third

WASHINGTON (BP) — Practicing a religious belief in nearly one-third of the world's countries is increasingly difficult due to government restrictions and public hostilities, according to new data from the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

The Pew study found a 32% increase in governmental restrictions and public hostilities from 2006-09 in the 198 countries of the world. Among its finding, the survey showed religious restrictions:

- increased 12% in 23 countries.
- decreased six percent in 12 countries.
- remained unchanged in 163 countries.

"Among the world's 25 most populous countries — which account for about 75% of the world's population — restriction on religious substantially increased in eight countries and did not substantially decrease in any," according to the Pew study, which was presented at an International Religious Freedom Roundtable event on Capitol Hill in late March.

Worldwide, about one percent of all people live in a country where hostilities decreased.

While governments have religious freedom wording in their constitutions, not all provide such



REMEMBERING — In this Baptist Press file photo, Isaac Gbadero, president of the student body at the Baptist seminary in Kaduna, Nigeria, recalls the attack 12 years ago that destroyed the seminary campus and took the lives of 11 people, including two students and a retired maintenance man. The terrorists wrote on the walls, "Shari'a [Islamic law] or War." (BP file photo)

protections, the Pew study noted. Religious liberty language is in the constitutions of all 198 countries and in the basic laws of 143 countries. Yet, 111 countries (56%) have statements in their constitutions or basic laws that contradict religious freedom.

Even though countries have these laws, "not all governments fully respect the religious rights written into their laws," the study noted.

Nigeria has become a case in point. The Islamic extremist sect

Boko Haram "started in 1995 with a stringent ideology that there is not a means for Christians to exist in the culture; you are to be targeted and killed," said Mark Lipdo, director of the Stefanos Foundation, at an April 5 event hosted by the Family Research Council (FRC). Nigeria is a key focus for the religious liberty efforts of the Stefanos Foundation.

The most recent attack by Boko Haram came Easter Sunday near a church where at least 40 people were killed, accord-

ing to Reuters News Service.

In Nigeria, there are three levels of persecution: street, state, and sect, Emmanuel Ogebe, a U.S.-based Nigerian human rights lawyer, said at the FRC briefing.

At the street level, average Muslims in northern Nigeria are taught that Christians are infidels, Ogebe said. At "the state level, we have state governments who persecute Christians so they cannot get a job. If you get a job, you can't be promoted. If you're a Christian, you can't get loans to build a church," Ogebe said.

Sect violence is mostly being done by Boko Haram, which is "calling for Christians to leave, calling for jihad," said Gregory Trent, who works for the Jubilee Campaign and recently was on a fact-finding mission in Nigeria.

Social hostilities in Nigeria are significantly elevated in contrast to previous studies, given the rising number of instances of bombings and rioting. The Jubilee Campaign advocates for religious and ethnic minorities living under oppressive regimes.

In the Pew study, social hostilities included individuals and groups reacting to a religion or religious person with violence, harassment and abuse. "In November 2008, for instance, at least 300 people were killed and hundreds of others were injured

during three days of religious rioting in the [Nigerian] city of Jos," according to the study.

Religious hostilities are constantly on Nigerians' minds, with Trent noting, "The violence has not abated; the violence has not stopped; there are constant barages of attacks."

Inside this

Directions

Sunday School
Lessons

Editorial

Bibliocipher

How to Become
a Christian

Revivals &
Homecomings

Just for the Record

Classifieds

APR 30 2012



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

So few lions

March 24 was witness to another one of those ubiquitous marches on Washington, D.C., to which most of us have become inured in recent years. This particular march on Washington deserves a little more of our attention, however.

"The Reason Rally is a movement-wide event sponsored by the country's major secular organizations. The intent is to unify, energize, and embolden secular people nationwide, while dispelling the negative opinions held by so much of American society... and having a [expletive deleted] good time doing it!" according to the web site Reasonrally.com.

Apparently, the word "secular" is now being substituted for "atheist," for the same reason "gay" has been substituted for "homosexual" — to dispel common conceptions about atheists and homosexuals and make people more comfortable about accepting such behavior as normal.

"Are we just going to use this opportunity to bash religion? No. This will be a positive experience," the rally backers wrote on the web site, "focusing on all non-theists have achieved in the past several years (and beyond) and motivating those in attendance to become more active..."

Right. "God is a myth," said Dave Silverman, president of American Atheists and a featured speaker at the rally, according to an article in the March 24 issue of The Washington Post, which reported on the rally. "Closet atheists, you are not alone," Silverman said.

The Post reported that the crowd, estimated by organizers at about 20,000 people, chanted, "We're here. We're godless — get used to it," in response to a speech by Fred Edwards, national director of the United Coalition of Reason.

The Post also reported, "A small number of counterprotesters stood at the fringes of the rally, holding signs that said, among other things, 'Jesus forgives sin' and 'Fear God.' Some of them engaged in heated debate with non-believers. One woman, a Reason Rally attendee, approached a group of counterprotesters with a sign on which she'd written, 'So many Christians, so few lions.'"

Nice.

The web site of Mississippi atheists, msatheists.org, estimated that 50-60 people from the state boarded a special bus in Starkville and traveled to Washington, D.C., for the rally.

"We have the numbers to be taken seriously," said Paul Fidalgo, spokesman for the Center for Inquiry, which promotes scientific method and reasoning and was one of the organizations sponsoring the rally, according to the Post article. "We're not just a tiny fringe group."

Matthew Zemo, 29, of Brooklyn said atheists have been too nice for too long. He said he hopes the rally will encourage people to step up and speak out. This gathering is long overdue," he said. "This is just the beginning," according to the Post article.

Problem is, Fidalgo and Zema are right. Smugly wrapped snugly in our Baptist cocoon in middle of the Bible Belt, it's far too easy for us to miss the real meaning behind what they are saying. Their numbers are indeed growing. They are indeed to the point that government politicians, entertainment moguls, consumer products companies, and a whole host of other political, social, and cultural entities are beginning to sit up and pay attention to them.

They intend to have their way. These are the people who fight Christmas nativity scenes, censor textbooks, demand the removal of the Ten Commandments from civic property, and generally want to push to the fringe any mention or display of religion in the public life of the United States.

Make no mistake — this is primarily about marginalizing Christianity and Christian discourse. To those contrarians who would argue otherwise, just refer to the woman's handwritten sign quoted in the Washington Post article: "So many Christians, so few lions." Despite all their web site assurances, Reason Rally was nothing more than an opportunity to bash religion, particularly Christianity, on a national stage — and if the web site Mississippi Atheists is to be believed, there is an organized effort in this state to promote the same kind of anti-religion bigotry.

There is obviously a lot to do before Christ returns — and he is returning. Let's get to work before it's too late. Our Lord's Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) demands no less.

The choice: discipline or regret

Every person must realize that he or she eventually will live with one of two pains: the pain of discipline or the pain of regret.

The pain of discipline will empower a person to say "no" to destructive choices. The pain of regret results in an individual staring into life's review mirror wishing he or she had made different choices.

"Whatsoever a man sows," the Bible says, "this he will also reap." Plant the seeds of discipline in the garden of life and the weeds of regret will be sparse. However, neglect self-restraint and life's garden will become overgrown with remorse.

The news media have been giving quite a bit of attention to a couple of individuals who had their lives totally disrupted due to conscious choices they made. While they have different backgrounds and professions, the pair shares the reality of regret.

John Edwards, successful trial lawyer, former U.S. senator, and Democratic vice presidential nominee, has been in the news of late because he is on trial having been accused of using campaign funds in an attempt to cover-up an extra-marital affair that also resulted in a child.

Bobby Petrino, the now former coach of the Arkansas Razorbacks football team, found his way into the news when a motorcycle accident led to the uncovering of an extra-marital affair he was having with a much younger university employee.

Edwards and Petrino have much in common. Both were successful, popular, and well-compensated. They seemingly were living the dream and had it all. However, when it came to the most important relationship in their lives — their marriages — they were woefully neglectful and undisciplined.

Edwards issued a statement in 2008 when his affair had been revealed. In part, the apology read: "In 2006, I made a serious error in judgment and conducted myself in a way that was disloyal to my family and to my core beliefs. I recognized my mistake and I told my wife that I had a liaison with another woman, and I asked for her forgiveness..."

Edwards' statement also included the following, "I was and am ashamed of my conduct and choices and I had hoped that it would never become public. ...I started to believe that I was special and became increasingly egocentric and narcissistic. If you want to beat me up — feel free. You cannot beat me up more than I have already beaten up myself. I have been stripped bare."



Guest opinion
with Kelly Boggs

Petrino issued a statement when news of his indiscretions became public. It read in part: "I'm sorry. These two words seem very inadequate. But that is my heart. All I have been able to think about is the number of people I've let down by making selfish decisions. ...I have no one to blame but myself."

Both men's statements are heavy with the pain of regret.

The lack of discipline in respect to their marriages prevented Edwards and Petrino from saying "no" to inappropriate and destructive choices. As a result, they brought embarrassment upon themselves and their families and cost themselves millions of dollars. In Edwards' case, he even faces the possibility of prison.

I am sure the women who became involved with Edwards and Petrino regret their lack of discipline and decision to become involved with married men. They, too, lost much when their indiscretions became public knowledge.

To be sure, Edwards and Petrino are only the latest illustrations of individuals who, perhaps without fully realizing it at the time, ultimately chose the pain of regret rather than the pain of discipline.

We must all suffer from one of two pains: the pain of discipline or the pain of regret. "The difference," observed entrepreneur and motivational speaker Jim Rohn, "is discipline weighs ounces while regret weighs tons."

The universal and unyielding truth articulated in the Bible is, "Whatsoever a man sows, this he will also reap." Sow the pain of discipline, my friends, and you will not regret it. If Edwards and Petrino had it do over again, I am quite sure they would.

Boggs is editor of the Louisiana Baptist Message, the news journal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. He may be contacted at editor@baptistmessage.com.

The Baptist Record

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
martin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design
Rebekah Ray
rrey@mbcb.org

Advertising
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager
Brandi Guettelbaum
bguettelbaum@mbcb.org

Editor Emeritus
Don McGregor

Baptist Record
Advisory Committee:
Dwayne Parker, Flora
Paul Sims, Pontotoc
Barry Burris, Terry
Carl White, Meridian
Billie Buckley, Petal
Russell Mord, Sturgis

Postmaster:
Send changes of
address to: The Baptist
Record, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS
39205-0530.

Send news,
communication,
and address changes
to: The Editor, Baptist
Record, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS
39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 988-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org



VOLUME 136 • NUMBER 17 • ISSN 0005-6778
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

To fund or defund

Komen breast cancer charity reinstates Planned Parenthood funding

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports)

— Susan G. Komen for the Cure's coffers remain as open as ever to Planned Parenthood, even though the organization appears to be taking a hit in contributions and public perception as a result.

The world's leading breast cancer charity will fund about the same number of Planned Parenthood affiliates this year as it did last, according to an April 12 report by The Washington Post. That news follows various accounts that giving to Komen and participation in its popular fund-raising races have declined since early February.

The latest report follows by 10 weeks Komen's tumultuous place in the spotlight of public attention over whether it would stick with its plan to defund the country's leading abortion provider. Only three days after its defunding decision went public, Komen backtracked Feb. 3 in the face of an onslaught of Planned Parenthood-fueled outrage.

Komen will fund at least 17 affiliates of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America this year, The Post reported. Last year, Komen gave money to 18 Planned Parenthood affiliates, according to an analysis by the pro-life American Life League.

The total given to Planned Parenthood this year has yet to be determined, according to The Post. Last year, Komen's grants to Planned Parenthood affiliates totaled \$680,000, the Associated Press reported.

Struggling for support

Since the report of Komen's on/off defunding of Planned Parenthood, there have been reports of declines in support of the breast-cancer foundation. For instance:

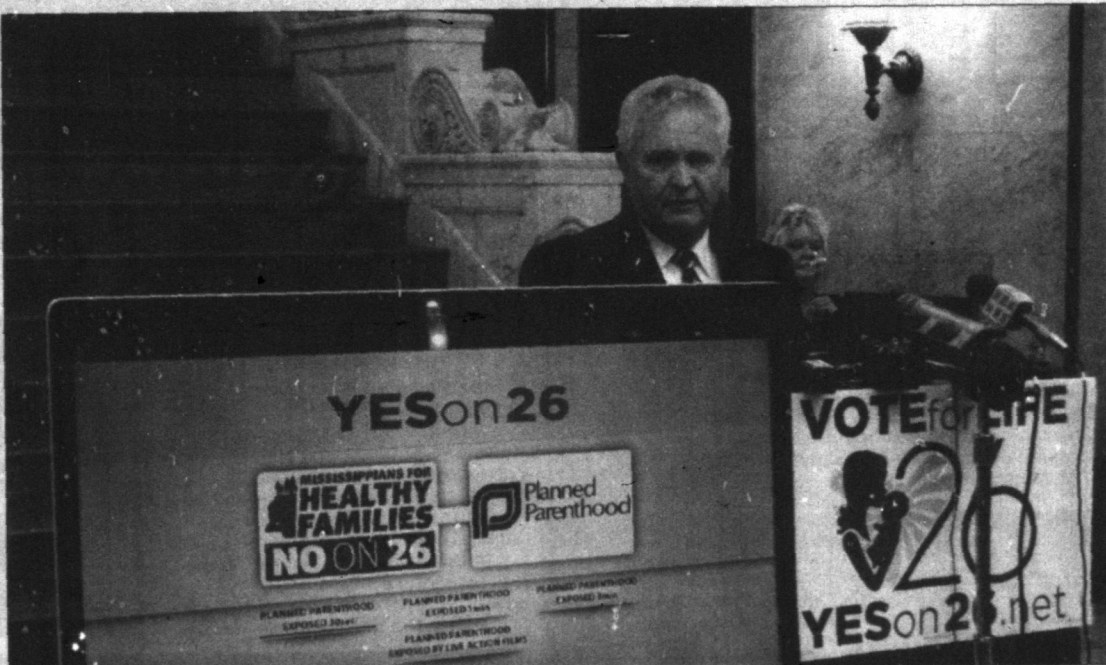
■ Six of Komen's Race for the Cure fundraisers had been held since the controversy when National Public Radio (NPR) broadcast a report March 26 in which the charity acknowledged it had struggled to meet its goals in about half of the events.

■ Registration for the Komen Race for the Cure March 25 in Tucson, Ariz., fell short of 7,300 in contrast to about 10,000 participants in 2011, according to NPR. Donations totaled \$585,000 toward a goal of \$700,000, The Post reported.

■ The Los Angeles (Calif.) County race March 24 raised about \$950,000, far short of the \$1.3 million goal, according to The Chronicle of Philanthropy.

■ Komen fell from No. 2 to No. 56 in the yearly Harris Poll that ranks the "brand health" of nonprofit organizations, The Chronicle reported. The online survey was conducted in February.

While news reports have at least implied the decline is based on the reaction of pro-choice women who are disillusioned with and untrusting of Komen,



EXPOSED — Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, details the connection between Planned Parenthood and the effort to defeat Initiative 26 in Mississippi's general election voting last year, at an October 2011 press conference at the New Capitol in Jackson. Amendment 26, which was turned down by Mississippi voters, would have added to the state Constitution a clause defining life as beginning at the moment of fertilization. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

pro-life blogger Jill Stanek questioned the conventional wisdom. She pointed to a report that donations to the charity increased by 100% in the two days after its defunding of Planned Parenthood became news.

"It would have gone the other way had liberal types withdrawn enough support to make a dent," Stanek wrote March 29. "In fact, pro-lifers who had withheld from Komen [in the past] started to give. And then stopped, of course. An objective [mainstream media] would have more likely concluded Komen's new fundraising woes were due to its continued connection" to Planned Parenthood.

Komen has problems with both abortion advocates and opponents, Stanek said. "In reality, Komen has alienated both ends of the ideological spectrum now," she wrote, "but it would have fared better sticking with pro-lifers."

Some pro-life advocates had refused before the uproar of early February to give to Komen or participate in its five-kilometer runs and walks that typically draw more than 1.6 million participants each year.

No mammograms?

Komen has defended its grants to Planned Parenthood affiliates by saying the funds are not for abortions but for breast screenings and breast health education. Planned Parenthood affiliates, however, do not offer mammograms, though

Komen said grants to the organization may pay for mammograms at other sites.

The widespread news coverage of Komen's original decision to halt funding, the Planned Parenthood-orchestrated reaction, and Komen's subsequent policy change served a couple of educational purposes for the public:

■ More Americans, including pro-life advocates, learned the breast cancer foundation gives to Planned Parenthood, increasing the likelihood pro-life support of Komen would decline further.

■ More Americans found out Planned Parenthood centers do not offer mammograms but refer women to other clinics for the screenings.

Taxpayer funding at nearly a half-billion

Planned Parenthood is a cultural lightning rod primarily because of its massive abortion business. Its clinics reported 329,445 abortions in 2010, which made up more than one-fourth of the lethal procedures performed in the United States for the year.

Planned Parenthood compiled those kinds of statistics while the organization and its affiliates received \$487.4 million in government grants, contracts, and reimbursements in 2009-10, the most recent year for which statistics are available.

Republicans in Congress have attempted to remove taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood, but have been blocked by Democrats.

Although Planned Parenthood does not operate an abortion clinic in Mississippi, the group was instrumental along with the American Civil Liberties Union in the defeat of Initiative 26 in Mississippi's general election voting last year. Initiative 26 would have mandated that the Mississippi Constitution define life as beginning at the moment of fertilization.

Scandal-ridden

Planned Parenthood's notoriety has also mounted because of its proclivity for scandal.

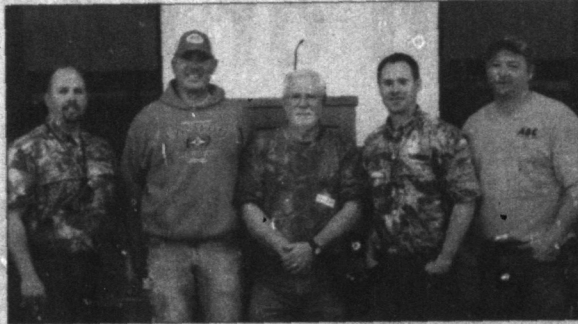
An updated February report by the Alliance Defense Fund to Congress suggested 20% of the abortion provider's affiliates could be guilty of waste and fraud involving government funds. The report showed that audits of seven of 79 affiliates over a 14-year period found nearly eight million dollars of fraud, waste, and abuse.

Undercover investigations in recent years by pro-life organizations have uncovered Planned Parenthood workers demonstrating a willingness to help self-professed sex traffickers whose prostitutes supposedly are in their early teens; seeking to cover up alleged child sex abuse; and agreeing to receive donations designated exclusively for abortions of African-American babies.

Just for the Record



Dustin Pierce, **SHADY GROVE CHURCH, BATESVILLE**, made a public commitment to the ministry Nov. 6, 2011, and was licensed to preach Apr. 1. He will begin attending Blue Mountain College in the fall. Shown are pastor Tim McMillen and Pierce.



ANTIOCH CHURCH, NESHOPA ASSOCIATION, held a wild game supper Mar. 3. The event included a 3D bow shooting competition. Forty individuals competed and over 100 participated in the event. Speakers included world champion predator caller Jon Paul Moody and Rusty Farmer. Shown are Farmer, Brandel Russell, associate pastor Mike Truhett, Moody, and event coordinator Jody Skinner.



ROUNDAWAY CHURCH, DODDSVILLE, ordained Gabby Hays into the ministry Mar. 18. Shown are Hays and pastor Bob Hill.

The youth of **NESHOPA CHURCH, UNION**, participated in a youth weekend Mar. 23 - 25. The group enjoyed games, missions, Bible study, and worship. The group also conducted a 30-hour famine to help with feeding the hungry and volunteer at Love's Kitchen. There was one profession of faith. Shown are some of the participants.



ROCK HILL CHURCH, MT. OLIVE, held a deacon ordination service recently for Charlie Williams and Mike Nichols. Shown are Vera Williams, Williams, chairman of deacons Greg Kelly, Carla Nichols, and Nichols. Nelson Crozier, pastor.

BIBL i O C i P H E R

ERN TIDW XG ZIHW, L GEDICZ RITW XC

ERN WLP IA EDIJYTN; LCW RN VCIKNER

ERNH ERLE EDJGE XC RXH.

CLRJH ICN: GNMNC

Clue: $X = I$

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John One: Thirty-six

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

CLASSIFIEDS

REMODELING SALE! 75% OFF COST! Large pedestal Pulpit \$200; Fiberglass Baptistry \$275. Practically new freestanding Saled Bar with tray slide and end shelf \$350; Food Tray and Silverware Cart \$160. Highland Colony Baptist Church, Ridgeland. 601.856.4031; mail.office@hcbc.net

FOUR CEMETERY LOTS FOR SALE. Lakewood, Clinton Blvd., Jackson, Ms. 601-331-6366.

SUBSCRIBE FREE TO NEW INSPIRATIONAL AND ENCOURAGING BELIEVER LIFE E-JOURNAL @ WWW.BELIEVERLIFE.COM. Publish your Christian articles and inspirational stories.

SOUND SYSTEM \$1600 Includes: • Peavey 12 Channel Soundboard • Mackie Fr 800 power amp • Two 15 inch Yamaha speakers • Furman Power Conditioner • American Audio Professional Power Amplifier • Three Sennheiser microphones with cables • Two Neutrik Speaker speaker cables Call 662-401-2063 or 662-210-0064

PASTOR: FOREST AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH OF JACKSON, ALABAMA IS SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR. Degree and some experience preferred. Normal pastoral duties. Please send resume and divd, if available to: Forest Avenue Baptist Church, P.O. Box 611, Jackson, Ala. 36545 Attn: Search Committee or e-mail resume to: fabc7637@aol.net

PINEVILLE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH IN PINEVILLE, LA IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MUSIC MINISTER. If interested, email resumes to Pastor Steve McAlister at steve@pinevillepark.org.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to 601-483-7958 or call 600-368-2705.

GATLINBURG RENTALS: Cabin \$90/night and Condo \$70/night. Contact: 632 922 0401 or Email: pdw4760@aol.net for information and booking.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN CARLISLE, ARKANSAS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MUSIC MINISTER. Conservative in doctrine. Traditional music. Please send resume to: First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 25, Carlisle, AR 72024.

FOR SALE: SIX-TIER LIGHTED PATRIOTIC "SINGING FLAG" (ELIZABETHTOWN, KY). Used for choir cantatas. Manufacturer's construction/lighting instructions included. Photos available. Contact John Rice (john@sevenvalley.org) or call 270-765-7822.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 600-605-2970

NEED TO DOWNSIZE? CLARK ESTATE SALES CAN HELP! "Estate Sales Experts" Turn assets into cash in 14 days! Honest - Professional - References: 601-317-2538 www.nickclarkauctions.com Certified Appraiser Statewide Service No upfront fees or expenses We do 100% of the work

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATIONS CONDOS: Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, AL. Rent direct from Christian Family Owners. Lowest Prices on the Beach. www.gulfshorescondos.com, 205-556-0368, 205-752-1231, 251-752-2338.

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com

STAINED GLASS: new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, CHRISTIAN OWNED. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Sebrén, owners.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Oulman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

GET AWAY AT BETSY'S LIL' CABINS for a brochure 601-940-6841

MS POSITIONS

HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH IN NESHOPA ASSOCIATION IS SEEKING AN INDIVIDUAL FOR PART-TIME YOUTH DIRECTOR. Please send resume to: dmphilips@gmail.com or contact Michelle Phillips at 601-507-7700.

BIVOCATIONAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED. Mail resume to: "Search Team", Tooms Baptist Church, P.O. Box 487, Tooms, MS 39364.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH IS LOOKING FOR A PIANIST FOR SUNDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS. Please send resumes to Cedar View Baptist Church, Attn: Music Director, 3300 Hwy 305, Olive Branch, Ms. 38654.

HICKORY RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A PART TIME CHILDREN'S LEADER full of compassion and love for our future leaders. Please email resumes to malle@windstream.net or you mail them to Hickory Ridge Baptist Church, 1124 Mulkan Road, Florence, MS 39073 Attn: Becky

CENTER TERRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CANTON, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME PIANIST. Please send resumes to: Center Terrace Baptist Church c/o Personnel Committee P.O. Box 78 Canton, MS 39046.

UNION HALL BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH DIRECTOR. Resumes may be mailed to the church at: 1242 Nola Road N. E., Brookhaven, MS 39601 Attention: Youth Director Search Committee.

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN VICKSBURG MISSISSIPPI IS SEEKING INDIVIDUAL FOR FULL TIME YOUTH MINISTER AND ASSOCIATE PASTOR. Please send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church Attn: Personnel Committee, 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180 or email to: IBC_personnel@yahoo.com or contact Michael Bull at 601-218-5325.

So. Baptists sign friend-of-the-court brief

WASHINGTON (BP) — The New York City Board of Education's controversial ban on renting public school space for religious worship violates both the free exercise of religion and the prohibition on government establishment of religion, a Southern Baptist entity and other groups contend in a friend-of-the-court brief filed in federal court.

The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville joined local and national religious organizations in the April 20 brief that urges a federal court in New York to invalidate a Board of Education policy that bars churches and other faith groups from meeting in schools.

The brief, written by the Christian Legal Society (CLS), also calls on the court to permanently block the policy from being enforced.

The U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last year that the ban was constitutional, affecting dozens of churches including seven Southern Baptist congregations that used public schools for corporate worship. Some moved their meetings to other facilities.

Some churches have been able to continue meeting in school buildings because of a Feb. 24 ruling by federal judge Loretta Preska of the Southern District of New York, which blocked enforcement of the ban while the case proceeds.

The Second Circuit upheld the injunction five days later. The appeals

court, however, urged Preska to release a final ruling by mid-June.

New York City's school policy infringes on the opening two clauses of the First Amendment, according to the brief signed onto by ERLC and other organizations. Those clauses state, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

The policy "is not one that feigns neutrality on its face, hiding an ulterior purpose to target religious exercise," the brief says. "The Board's policy openly and notoriously singles out 'religious worship services' for exclusion from the public space that is otherwise available for other social and civic functions."

The brief contends a social function that includes the same attributes as a religious worship service such as singing, praying, and speaking on "moral" topics would not violate the policy. "But once these activities are part of a religious event, they suddenly become outlawed," according to the brief.

The school board rule transgresses the First Amendment's establishment clause by trying to define religious worship, the brief says. "The Board cannot get into the business of deciding what does and does not qualify as a 'religious worship service' without entangling itself in issues forbidden to its authority and without discriminating among religious organizations and beliefs," according to the brief.

For the last 60 years, the U.S. Supreme Court "has repeatedly instructed that the state has no power whatsoever to determine what constitutes 'religious worship' and 'religious worship services' and what does not," the brief says.

The brief also contends the use of public schools for worship does not constitute endorsement of religion when the Board of Education makes its facilities available to all groups. "The fact that more churches than mosques and synagogues use school facilities reflects simple demographics, not endorsement," according to the brief.

The policy also contradicts a long-held practice in American life, the brief contends. By singling out religious groups among all community organizations, it "is inconsistent with historical practice and threatens the equal access of religious observance to public space still common in our country," the brief says.

In addition to the ERLC, others signing on to the CLS brief are the National Association of Evangelicals, American Bible Society, National Council of Churches, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York, Council of Churches of the City of New York, Brooklyn Council of Churches, and Queens Federation of Churches.

The case is Bronx Household of Faith v. Board of Education of the City of New York.

SBC messenger cards available

The 2012 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) will be held June 19-20, at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Most Mississippi Baptist churches are using the online registration process at www.sbc.net to register their messengers for the Convention. Churches that choose not to register messengers through the online process may contact Brenda Box for registration cards at Executive Administration, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside of Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. E-mail: bbox@mbcb.org.

SBC messenger cards are required in order to participate in the business sessions of the annual meeting and are mailed only by church request. For additional information, contact Brenda Box at the above telephone numbers or e-mail.

Staff Changes



HANDBORO CHURCH, GULFPORT, has called B.J. (Jody) Bennett as pastor. Shown are Bennett and his wife, Nancy.



FIRST CHURCH, BENNDALE, has called Burnice Havard as pastor effective Jan. 11. He was interim pastor from July 10, 2011 until Jan. 11. He is shown with his wife, Teresa.



NEW SALEM CHURCH, ATTLA ASSOCIATION, has called John Cooke as pastor. He and his wife Brenda come from Doty Springs Church, McCool.

In other Staff Changes:

► **County Line Church, Overt**, has called Joshua Terry West as youth minister, effective January 2012. He will be a student at William Carey University this fall.

Not long ago I received a message from the American Lung Association. Ultimately, it was a request for support and a donation. But right at the first of the communiqué was some information that grabbed my attention. The letter said that the average person breathes 20,000 times a day. I had never thought about my breathing or how many breaths I take in a day. I am thankful I have no known lung problems, breathing problems, or lung diseases, but, of course, millions do. When I read that and begin to think about it, I quickly did the math and realized that is 140,000 breaths a week. Then I calculated and 365 days a year is 7,300,000 breaths. I checked how many breaths that would be for the years that I have lived and suddenly it looked like the national debt before me.

Honestly, I have never thought much about breathing. I know that it is important and I realize that you cannot live long without it. I have seen others struggle with lung and breathing problems, but it was not even on my radar screen. The more I thought about breathing, the more I wondered how I could ignore something that is so vital to my existence.

Almost immediately I thought that breath is a gift from God. Just as life is a gift from the Lord, each breath is the sustenance of that life. And so, for the next little while every breath seemed to be a choice experience of life giving breathing. I suppose the people who recognize the wonder of life giving breath the most are those who struggle with being able to get their breath. Some years ago I had a dear friend who was considerably older than I am, but we shared the same date of birth. Annually we would



Breathe deep and thank God

have a conversation about who would get the first call in to wish the other a *Happy Birthday*. My friend suffered from emphysema and one morning after he had called, I just felt that I needed to go by and see him before I went to work. He was not feeling well and as we visited for a few minutes, he would talk and gasp for air to get out another phrase. I asked him if he could have one wish granted on his birthday, what that would be. Getting as much air as he could, he said that he would like to know the feeling of taking one, deep, full breath of air, but he probably never would. Between gasps and phrases, he explained to me that his condition meant that he could only get a partial breath and that he always wondered if it would be enough and it never seemed to fully satisfy. For all of us who one after another about 20,000 times a day get a good, deep, healthy breath, we need to pause and give thanks to God for that precious little unseen gift.

I would also point out that it is a lift from God. I know that you cannot concentrate on work, reading, studying, driving, and taking care of other needs when you give all of your attention to every breath that you take. It would not be smart nor would it even be possible. However, it might be worthwhile at strategic times during our day to pause and remember this next breath is from God. Each breath can be like the manna from heaven was for the Israelites each day. God instructed them to go out, take what they needed for that day, use it, and He would provide for the next day. It was a constant and on-going reminder of His care and provisions. All of us need our next breath, but more importantly we need Him, the provider of all of the precious resources that keep us alive. So throughout the day just occasionally pause, take a deep breath, and thank God for that precious provision.

One other thing I would ask you to think about and that is breath-

ing could be a shift from God. Let me explain. Sometimes you and I become so accustomed to the good things that God does for us and the wonderful blessings of life — family, friends, church, and community, the degree of health that we enjoy, and the great medical resources that are available when our health is not good — that we forget to give thanks. Not all of the time, but sometimes we get so accustomed to the good things around us that we take them for granted to the point that we never even think about them and certainly never give thanks to God for them.

I thought about breathing in that regard because while it is essential for me to be alive an hour from now, I find myself never thinking about it and never expressing appreciation for it. I suppose in today's cultural context I just treat it as an entitlement — a right of life. And so, if God will just give me more breaths, I will keep going on my merry way. It does seem as though we live in a complaining world. From morning to night and almost second by second, we can find a new thing to complain about. Yet there seems to be something interesting that takes place that is a sad revelation of the condition of our hearts when we begin to complain about good things.

Add to that an even sadder condition and that is when we begin to just totally ignore the good things that God has given us. Maybe that is the shift that takes place in our hearts and today as we take another breath, we need to pause and ask God to pull us close to Him, near to His heart, and to the place where we can say, "Thank you God for your amazing grace, your wonderful provisions, and for this next breath."

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mcb.org.

Just for the Record



THE GAS AND MOMS OF ENTERPRISE CHURCH, ENTERPRISE, recently enjoyed the Mom & Me Overnight at Garywa Camp and Conference Center, Clinton.



The Brotherhood of **CONCORD CHURCH, BENTON-TIPPAH ASSOCIATION** selected Doug Hargett, deacon and Sunday School director, as "Man of the Year." Shown are Hargett and Lyle Bullock.

COUNTY LINE CHURCH, OVETT, recognized Herman and Verdine Phillips Oct. 30, 2011, with a special service and lunch. Herman Phillips has served as deacon for 50 years, and Verdine Phillips has served in Sunday School, VBS, as church treasurer, choir, nursery, and wherever there was a need.



FIRST CHURCH LYMAN, GULFPORT, recognized Marvin Green and Emma Copeland for a combined 104 years of teaching in Sunday School, 54 and 50 years, respectively.

Bible Drill



COVENANT CHURCH, GREENE COUNTY, recognizes its student Bible drillers: from top, Carey McLain, Mason McLain, Dalton Welford, Alisha Washington, and Joe Allen.



CHESTER CHURCH, ACKERMAN, recognizes its youth Bible drillers: Back row, Jace Pearson, Brady Cagle, Roman Ramirez, and David Ramirez; front row, Olivia Ivy, Alex Ivy, Genny Beth Ivy, Marilyn Ramirez, and Hayley Thomas.



FREDONIA CHURCH, NEW ALBANY, recognizes its children's Bible drillers: Carley Hall, Kaci Deaton, Anniston McClellan, Michael Sheppard, Sara McDonald, Morgan Nance, Keri Deaton, and Hunter Hodges.



LIBERTY CHURCH, FLOWOOD, recognizes its Bible Buddies and youth and children's Bible drillers.

AT RIGHT: FREDONIA CHURCH, NEW ALBANY, recognizes its youth Bible drillers: back row, Matthew Ard, Clare Hall, Abbey Robbins, Cassie Thompson, and Luke Conlee; front row, Bailey Thompson, Madison Bishop, Alli Hodges, and Zach High.



BEULAH CHURCH, DECATUR, recognizes its Bible drillers. Back row: Graham Murphree and Lacye Harrison; front row: Jessi Thaggard, Britney Murphree, Heston Harrison, and Nathan Kelly. Barbara J. Harrison, Nicole Bryan, and Suzanne Gressett, leaders.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God: even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

LAND

cont. from p. 1

committee said in a statement released April 18 that public comments by Land about the racially-charged Trayvon Martin killing in Florida "have angered many and opened wounds from the past."

"The [ERLC] Executive Committee is very saddened that this controversy

has erupted, and is very concerned about how these events may damage the work of the ERLC in support of Southern Baptists and in furtherance of the Kingdom of our Lord," the six-member committee said.

Land issued an open letter of apology the evening of April 16 for comments he voiced on his Richard Land Live! radio broadcast March 31 about the infusion of politics into the Martin case.

In a further statement issued after the executive committee released its concerns about the alleged plagiarism and his Martin case comments, Land said: "I serve at the will of the trustees. I believe fervently in the trustee system of oversight. I am under their authority. That is why I initiated the conference call that led to this statement. I look forward to continuing to work with and under the oversight of

my trustees, who have been elected by the Southern Baptist Convention."

The ERLC executive committee includes the commission's three trustee officers and the chairmen of its three trustee subcommittees. The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has 34 trustees representing churches from across the country who are elected by messengers at the SBC's annual meetings.

Just for the Record



A reception was held Apr. 15 at **FIRST CHURCH, PASCA-GOULA**, to celebrate National Library Week. Shown are the library volunteers. Back row, Betty Richards, Geraldine Warden, and Sherrie McIlrath; front row, Debbie Scott, Dora Roeder, Betty Moore, and Cindy Brantley.



The secret pal social of **CONCORD CHURCH, BENTON-TIPPAH ASSOCIATION**, was held Mar. 8. Shown are the participants.

In other Church News:

► **First Church, Bendale**, presented their annual Christmas program, *Jesus is Born*, Dec. 18.

► **Providence Church, Cleveland**, is hosting Little River Trio and Persuaded in concert Apr. 29, 1 p.m. A love offering will be received.

► **Damascus Church, Flora**, will host Forgiveness gospel quartet for 5th Sunday worship Apr. 29, 5:30 p.m., followed by fellowship meal. John Taylor, interim pastor; Brenda Quattlebaum, music.

► **CrossBooks**, an imprint of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, has released a new book by Kevin Shearer, pastor of **38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg**, entitled, *Grace Works: Studies in Galatians*, a verse-by-verse devotional study of Paul's letter to the Galatians. The book is available at the LifeWay store in Hattiesburg and online at CrossBooks, Amazon, and Barnes and Noble.



ROCK BRANCH CHURCH, NEWTON COUNTY, licensed George Heath to the gospel ministry Apr. 1. Shown are pastor Danny L. Chaney and Heath.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

CD or IRA About to Roll Over and Play Dead?

Learn the Safe and Secure Way to Earn Stock Market Linked Returns Without Market Risk to Your Principal.

Call Now For More Information
O'Neil Financial Services

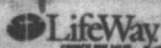
1.800.844.3254

Carpenter Bus Sales

Lowest Payments Ever!!

Capacity	2 Years	4 Years	6 Years
15 (#11161)	\$776	\$647	\$608
26 (#10316)	\$851	\$709	\$667
33 (#11074)	\$1,540	\$1,283	\$1,207
44 (#11076)	\$1,997	\$1,664	\$1,565

(1) Over 150 New & Used Buses in Stock
Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc. Bus Dealer
Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc. Bus Dealer



800-370-6180 • www.CarpenterBus.com

College News



MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE's table tennis team played their best games of the season in the 2012 championships and emerged from a Texas tournament ranked No. 2 in North America. In their fifth season, the MC Choctaws upset second seeded Lindenwood University of Missouri before losing to perennial champion Texas Wesleyan. Prior to the April 13-15 tournament in the Lone Star State, MC was listed as No. 3 in National Collegiate Table Tennis rankings of the 158 colleges in the U.S. and Canada that field squads. When the three-day tournament was over, MC was ranked higher than such teams as San Jose State, Toronto, Southern California, Princeton, California, Wichita State, Ohio State, Penn State and Columbia.



Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, shown, was the keynote speaker at **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE's** scholarship dinner Apr. 17. The dinner attracted nearly 600 guests. Rice is currently a political science professor at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California.

Religious groups still fighting Vanderbilt 'all-comers' policy

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A coalition of Vanderbilt University students, faculty, and alumni opposed to the school's "all-comers" policy has released a six-minute video explaining why they believe the policy defies common sense and discriminates against Christian groups.

The video was posted on the Internet the same day students who oppose the policy handed out 4,000 MP4 players loaded with the video on campus. Players also are being given to the university's board of trustees.

The private school's official policy now requires any campus-recognized group — including religious groups — to accept the university's non-discrimination policy which forbids discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, and sexual orientation.

For Christian groups, that means they technically cannot require their group leader to be a Christian.

"I don't think this is over. I think Vanderbilt alums and other people will continue to speak out and speak up," said Bill Campbell, who is identified as the former head of admissions, in the video. Campbell says he believes Vanderbilt is "discriminating against the Christian organizations."

One student on the video, junior Pieter Valk, asks, rhetorically, "If we can't ask our leaders to be religious, what's the point of our group?"

Law student Palmer Williams

said she thinks "it does seem unfair" for the policy to apply "to one organization that I was a part of — Campus Crusade for Christ" but not to "Tri Delta, [a sorority] which I [also] was a member of."

Several people in the video question whether they'll be able to support Vanderbilt in the future. Cat Majors, a senior, said she is transferring to Rice University, "primarily for the reason that they have a graduate student fellowship that isn't being attacked by the administration, [and] I know that I have the right to practice my faith there freely and openly."

The video was released about a week after a coalition of 11 religious groups, known as Vanderbilt Solidarity, said they will not follow Vanderbilt's requirement. They have submitted applications with constitutions that have not been updated to mirror the university's nondiscrimination policy. Members of the coalition are: Asian American Christian Fellowship, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Cru, Medical Christian Fellowship, Navigators, Graduate Christian Fellowship, Bridges International, Lutheran Student Fellowship, Every Nation Ministries, Beta Upsilon Chi, and Christian Legal Society.

Baptist Collegiate Ministries at Vanderbilt has announced that they intend to stay on campus without compromising their ministry, but will work from the "margins of campus" if necessary.



P&C Made Even Stronger

We know the SBC. And we know the wisdom of forming an alliance with just the right property and casualty program leader.

**One SBC Ministry +
One Church Insurance Leader =
One Very Special Program for You**

Regular business property and liability insurance is fine if you're a regular business. Since your calling is special, you need something special. Only one church insurance product was designed JUST FOR MINISTRY and made even better by the alliance of TWO OF THE TOP ministry coverage providers in the country.

We welcome our friends from Brotherhood Mutual® Insurance Company — and trust you will, too.

Call **1-888-98-GUIDE** (1-888-984-8433)
or visit **www.GuidestonePropertyCasualty.org**
for a complimentary coverage review.

Coverage designed for ministry. Designed for you.

All property and liability insurance coverages are provided by Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company and are subject to conditions, coverage limits, limitations and exclusions. For precise details of coverage, please refer to actual policy forms. These products are only available in states where Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company is licensed, and will be written in accordance with company underwriting rules. GuideStone Agency Services is an appointed agency of Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company in Texas and Alabama, and is also a licensed agency in other states.

© 2012 GuideStone Financial Resources 19615 04/12

GuideStone®
Property & Casualty Program
Do well. Do right.™

Brotherhood Mutual®
Insurance Company
Insuring America's churches and related ministries®

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

FEBRUARY 2012

HONORS

Mrs. Marie Boone
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges
Mrs. Doris Cole
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges
Gregg & Cathy Davis
Mary & Jerry Helms
Austin Harrell
Ms. Beverly Brooks
Emma Harrell
Ms. Beverly Brooks
Martha Ann Klaus
Ms. Camille W. Atwood
Mrs. Dee T. Hyland
Dr. & Mrs. Rory Lee
Ms. Louise C. Templeton
Sherry May
Ms. Ernestine F. May
Shelby Miller
Ms. Beverly Brooks
Lois Pinkard
Mr. Freddie Pinkard
Reggie Shelby
Anonymous
Glynn & Robert Smith
Deer Creek BC, Rolling Fork
Colby Van Buren
Ms. Beverly Brooks
Raegan Van Buren
Ms. Beverly Brooks
Riley Van Buren
Ms. Beverly Brooks
Alvin & Henrietta Van Middendorp
Deer Creek BC, Rolling Fork

MEMORIALS

Mr. Don Ainsworth
Hale & Jean Singletary
Bobby & Catherine Wilson

Mr. Paul Alderman
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Betty Alexander
Daniel & Dianne Smith
Lucille Amason
Mr. Bertie M. Kennedy
Mrs. Marjorie Trussell Anthony
Truth Seekers SSC, FBC Madison
Danny & Emily Averett
LaFrance Graham
Sophia M. Martin
Mark & Janet Smith
Ms. Dianne Faulk
Drew & Sandy Taylor
Mrs. Virginia C. Quarles
Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Arnett
Mrs. Helen Louise Atkins
Larry & Sylvia Melton & Fmly
Sara Aycock
Golden Cir SSC, Providence BC
Providence BC Choir, Cleveland
Toby B. Mitchell
Jeff Barber
Mr. & Mrs. Bud Doherty
Jennifer Bass
Jerry & Glenda Fry
Mrs. Gladys Bell
Mrs. Gail Kirkland
Mrs. Mary T. Blackledge
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Sims
Mrs. Nona Blakney
Mrs. Rosa M. Miller
Master Pruett Taylor Bowen
Ms. Nancy F. Patrick
Preston & Patsy Lovell
Mr. Sid Bowie
Mr. & Mrs. C. Gene Cryder
Mr. Max Bramuchi
Stuart & Philene Allen
Mr. Charles Christmas
Rev. & Mrs. Jimmy Breland

Scott Branning
Mr. & Mrs. Perry E. Atherton
Jennings & Betty Sue Dixon
Ryan Braswell
Daniel & Dianne Smith
Reevie Broome
Camille S. Conerly
Tim Conerly
Jahazel Buckley
Mr. Ted Buckley
Andrew Shelton Burton Jr
Jess & Janet Dickinson
Mrs. Billie Marie Rushing
Jim Butler
Ted & Nancy Skipper
Larry Butler
Cecil Rhodes SSC, FBC Brookhaven
Crawford & Pauline Byrd
Walter & Regina Bailey
Joe Carson
Le & Florine Collins
Donnie & Phyllis Collins
Judy & John Gill
Cissy & Johnny Smith
Brenda & Lance Lower
Mrs. Juanita Castilaw
Ms. Alana Greer
Richard Rogers Family
Tony Rogers Family
Mr. John Christian
Mr. & Mrs. C. Gene Cryder
Helen Clifford
Michael & Shinell Betts
Florelle Cloy
Concord BC, McCall Creek
Marie Cox
Ms. Martha H. Woods
Thomas Crowley
Mrs. Sheila Huffman
Bill Crump
Mrs. Cleo Chamberlin
Gladwin Cummins
Scotty Smyth Family
Shirley McDavid Curan
Mrs. Carolyn M. Nix
Mrs. R. M. Currie
Mrs. Charlotte E. Graham
Mrs. Juanita Cox Daves
Ms. Martha H. Woods
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby W. Dye
Gary Dempsey
Jerry & Cathy Bodie
Annie Brister Dodge
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Fuqua Jr.
Evelyn Dreyer
Ms. Betty V. Smith
Dail Dunaway
Jerry & Glenda Fry
Tina Dunaway
Jerry & Glenda Fry
Jewell Kenneth Dykes Sr
Ms. Addie S. Keen
Douglas & Jeanette Godfrey
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Edwards
Mr. & Mrs. Larry W. Dykes
Edwin & Mickey Bearden
Bill & Cissy Bearden
Mike & Linda Bearden
Nancy, Tom & Hayley Cheatham
Carl Edwards
Fidelis SSC, Morrison Heights BC
Bonnie O. Elam
Bob & Carolyn Hennington
Mrs. Olivia Ernest
Ms. Nancy F. Patrick
Mrs. Ledora Fields
Mr. & Mrs. Perry E. Atherton
Mark Flemmons
John & Lillie Flemmons
Margaret Forman
Mrs. Elsie J. Sunrow
Ms. Josie Foster
Stanton BC, Natchez

Canaan Foy
Mr. Billie B. Wells
Geneva Gardner
Mr. Bobby C. Gardner
Mrs. Thelma Garner
Mr. Walter Barbee
Bill & Deena Barbee
Joan Waherry Gilbert
Ms. Hope Hawkins
Bobby Goff
Mr. & Mrs. Howard C. Duer
Powell H. Golding
Dr. & Mrs. John K. Perry
Shelly Guider
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Dr. W. D. Gunn
Jira & June Blair
Kirby Halford
Lorena Dean
Milton & Sandra Guice
Mrs. Frances Hanley
Mr. & Mrs. William Rex Patterson
Mr. Chokepicha. Harnsongkram
Calvary BC, Summit
Riley Harper
Mike & Suzanne Allen & Family
Mrs. Martha Harris
George & Charlotte Eagle
Mary K. Harvey
Jerry & Glenda Fry
Mae Hazzard
Ms. Polly Crosthwait
Dennis Hearn
Larry & Jean Bennett
Bro. T. W. Henderson
Branch BC, Morton
Juanita Herrington
Jerry & Glenda Fry
Herbert Hoff
Jerry & Glenda Fry
Mrs. Toni Hood
Jay & Darlene Gore
Bill & Deena Barbee

Ben Howell
Charlie & Debbie Breland
Norma Mary Hubble
Mr. & Mrs. Brooks H. Polk Jr.
Eleanor Huber
Mrs. Edna J. Workman
Bill Hunt
Jack & Judy McRee
Haller Hutchins
Bennie & Izella Robbins
Myrtle Jackson
Unity BC, Magnolia
Paul Johnson
Mrs. Betty Jo Schmidt
Betty Jones
Jerry & Glenda Fry
Mr. James L. Jones
Lloyd & Carolyn Smith
Mr. Jerry Jordan
Daniel & Dianne Smith
Mary Ellen Kahtslof
Ms. Majie Northway
Nellie King
Sonny & Margaret Newton
Bro. Joseph Bruce "Butch" Knight
Mr. & Mrs. W. T. McDonald Jr.
Mrs. Billie Marie Rushing
Ms. Regina Gail Sledge
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Heranney
Ms. Kay Taylor
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Mrs. Clara Faye Keith
Ms. Cecelia Palmer
Bob & Lovelia Greer
Howard & Dot Grubbs
Roy & Terri Schilling
Jerelyn Schilling
Mr. Robert E. Stevens
Dr. & Mrs. Kelly Alexander
Mr. Dewey A. Furr
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hollingsworth

Mr. & Mrs. Floyd A. Richmond
Mrs. Mary O. Crowe
Mrs. Billie Ruth Moore
Mrs. Berniece O. Wicker
Thomas & Leslie Hassett
Mrs. Beulah Ries Lane
Stuart & Philene Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Fuqua Jr.
Cecil & Penny Washington
Mr. Miller P. Holmes Jr.
Ms. Linda L. Todd
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Rev. & Mrs. Jimmy Breland
Ms. Patricia T. Junkin
Jason, Patty & Baby Jason Lane
Arthur (Bubba) Lawler
Jerry & Cathy Bodie
Norma Logan
Mark & Janet Smith
Winfred R. "Chubby" Lowery
West McComb Baptist Church
Dot Christian
Tommy & Colette Christian
Mary Travis
Mrs. Frances Lucas
Bro. & Mrs. Bobby Sellers
Mrs. Barbara Mangrum
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Robert A. Matthew
Mr. & Mrs. Brooks H. Polk Jr.
Mrs. Florence M. Matulich
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry E. Breakfield
Mitch Mauldin
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Haskins
Mrs. Joy B. Roberts
Mrs. Jennifer Maxwell
Jennings & Betty Sue Dixon

Free Vacation Bible School nametags are available from The Baptist Children's Village!

(Tags are in color. Design is as shown, with additional BCV fun facts on the reverse side.)

We also are offering to send speakers to come share with your church and have project ideas for your children.

Please call 601-922-2242 or e-mail bcbv@baptistchildrensvillage.com to make your request or get more information.

We need your nametag orders by April 30, 2012.

THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Christianity 105: Manage Money Well • Luke 16:13-15, 19-31

The debate about scientific accuracy of the Bible generally amuses me, especially the Big Bang Theory. To argue this as proven fact ignores that it defies basic physics. The Big Bang Theory started with the observation that the universe is expanding. It is simple enough to observe the expansion and then measure the rate of expansion and calculate a point where all the matter in the universe must have been in the same place at the same time. However, since then, science has observed that the rate of expansion is not constant. It was super fast. It slowed. Now it's speeding up again. If the math used a constant rate of expansion, it is no longer valid. Another flaw is that the source of the energy and matter remains unexplainable. Basic physics is that matter and energy are constant. So, Brother Kelly, what does this have to do with stewardship?

I see nothing in the Bible that says that the universe cannot expand or that the universe was not more compact at the time of creation. I agree that the expanding universe is evidence of an absolute beginning. We know that moment as creation with God as the source of energy and matter which is far more reasonable than, "there was nothing, then there was something." Therefore,

if Jehovah is the source of all the energy and matter in the Universe then everything is made of little bits of God.

It makes sense. Paul indicates in Romans 1:20 that God is in all of creation. In Romans 2:15 he informs us that God is a part of every person. Genesis 1 says we are created in His image. Every-

thing we are, everything we have, and everything around us is God. Returning a portion

to Him acknowledges this. Not returning a portion is not withholding from God, it is rejecting Him. Our writer uses Luke 16 and the story of a rich man and a poor beggar named Lazarus to illustrate this principle.

What Do You Think of Money? (Luke 16:13-15) The plain truth is that few are able to handle the burden of wealth. If you went through the January Bible Study series in Eccle-

siastes, and I hope you did, you were treated to an in depth discussion of the burden it creates by one whose wealth is still legendary.

How Do You Use Your Money? (Luke 16:19-21) See the point? The one that had wealth protected it with a wall

around his house that kept everyone away. Lazarus sits in sight of all and hides from no one. Everything he has is a gift from someone else.

The rich man is just as dependent on God's charity but is blinded by the pride of believing he is just that good. If God removes his hand for a moment, thieves and robbers can come, an earthquake could open the earth and take it all, he could lose his job, etc... (See Matthew 6:19-24).

Do You Know the Consequences? (Luke 16:22-26) It is important to emphasize here, gentle teachers, that it was not wealth or lack of wealth that decided

either man's fate, it was their dependence on God. The money gave the rich man a false sense of security which he allowed to increase his confidence in himself. Poor Lazarus was at the bottom of the heap and had nowhere to turn but up.

Do You Need to Repent? (Luke 16:27-31) In life, Lazarus envied the rich man and all his abundance. He longed for the rich man's waste. In death, the rich man envied Lazarus and all his abundance. He begged for a crumb from Abraham's table. It does not, but if having wealth now assured hell and absolute poverty assured heaven, which would you choose? Who do you know that is choosing hell? How will it feel to stand in heaven and watch their torment?

For Discussion: Read Isaiah 55:8-13. What happens when we use all of our seed for bread (feed ourselves) and do not plant (support the church)? What promise does God give about investing in sending God's word? What happens to a Church that spends everything on retaining the saved and nothing on making new disciples? What happens to the portfolio of the believer that saves money God asks them to give?

Mitchell is pastor of Main Street Church, Goodman.



Explore the Bible

with Kelly Mitchell

Jesus Is Coming Again • Matthew 22:12-14; 24:39b-44; 24:9-14, Revelation 7:9

Old Testament prophets foretold the coming of Christ. In God's plan, things began to happen quietly. The angel Gabriel appeared to a young woman named Mary who was engaged to Joseph. The angel assured Mary she was chosen to birth God's Son. Mary asked "How?" Gabriel answered: "The Holy Ghost will come upon you and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you, and the holy child shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35) Later, Joseph was wondering how to handle the situation. He was caring and didn't want to cause embarrassment to Mary. As he pondered what to do, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. She will bring forth a Son, and you shall call his name, Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:20-21) It was tax time, so Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born in a stable. The angel of the Lord appeared to nearby shepherds. They were startled by the glory of the Lord. "Don't be afraid", the angel said, "I bring you good news! Today in Bethlehem, a Savior was born. The shepherds hurried to see the newborn Son of God. They shared the news with all they met. But quietly, Mary thought about all that had happened

and stored the memories in her heart." (Luke 2:1-19) Jesus had come! Why would He need to come again?"

Read the Last Page Revelation 22:12-14

I love to read, and read several books at the time, but I've never read the last page

first. However, in this lesson about Jesus coming again, it's good for us to see what we need to be doing until that time. On the last page, Revelation 22 plainly tells us exactly what will happen when Christ comes the second time. "Look! I'm coming quickly, and my reward is with me to repay each person according to what he has done." (v. 12) God doesn't intend for us to know when He will make His appearance. But the thing we do know is that it will be very fast. Jesus had told the disciples many times what to expect: He would go away, The Comforter would come, and Jesus would come back

at a later time. The disciples didn't comprehend His message. My dad drew a pie shape to help me understand fractions. He explained the details, then asked, "Do you understand?" I couldn't lie; I slowly shook my head no. Jesus explained His authority to reward each person according to what He had done: Alpha and Omega, first and last,

beginning and the end. (v.13) Verse 14 shows our part in salvation. Christ's death on the cross provided the grace we needed

for total forgiveness. It's free, but we must make that personal decision. Those who have accepted Christ's sacrifice will enter heaven." (Revelation of John-Barclay)

See That You Are Ready Matthew 24:39b-44

Jesus used three examples to remind us to stay ready for the time of His second coming: Two men in the field; One will be taken and one left. (v.40) Two women

grinding at the mill, one taken, one left (v. 41) and a landowner unaware of a thief. (v. 43) Matthew 24:44 "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." If you are not a Christian, it's time to accept Christ's salvation. Don't wait too long! If you don't have a right relationship with Jesus, you need to confess your sins and renew your vow to worship Him only.

See That You Are Faithful Matthew 24:9-14; Revelation 7:9

The "Daily" news is scary to read. But the "Good" News is the outcome of our faithfulness. "But the one who endures to the end will be delivered." (v. 13) When salvation is told to all the world, the end will come. (v. 14) We need to be strong as we serve the Lord and faithful to share the gospel with all nations. That's Missions! When we are standing before the throne to receive our rewards, we'll be among those of every nation and people group who have believed and stayed faithful to God. John's vision in Revelation 7:9 showed all of us robed in white and praising God with our palm branches. How beautiful! Stay faithful to God.

Davis is a member of Fellowship Church, Meridian.



Bible Studies for Life

with Betty Davis



for total forgiveness. It's free, but we must make that personal decision. Those who have accepted Christ's sacrifice will enter heaven." (Revelation of John-Barclay)

See That You Are Ready Matthew 24:39b-44

Jesus used three examples to remind us to stay ready for the time of His second coming: Two men in the field; One will be taken and one left. (v.40) Two women

Revivals & Homecomings

► **First Church, Blackhawk:** Homecoming and revival, May 6 - 9; Sun., 10 a.m. followed by fellowship meal; Terry Terrell, leader; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m. nightly; Perry Irvin, speaker; Benny Rigby, music; Delores Tackett, pianist; Bryan Burson, pastor.

► **New Salem Church, McColl Creek:** Homecoming, May 6, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Timothy Williams, speaker; Rob Davis, music.

► **Harmony Church, Carroll County:** Homecoming, Apr. 29; services, 11 a.m., fol-

lowed by dinner on the ground; Larry Edwards, speaker.

► **New Home Church, Fulton:** Revival, May 6 - 9; Sun., 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Dale Sartin, speaker; Mike Warren, pastor.

► **Jericho Church, Gun-town:** Revival, Apr. 29 -

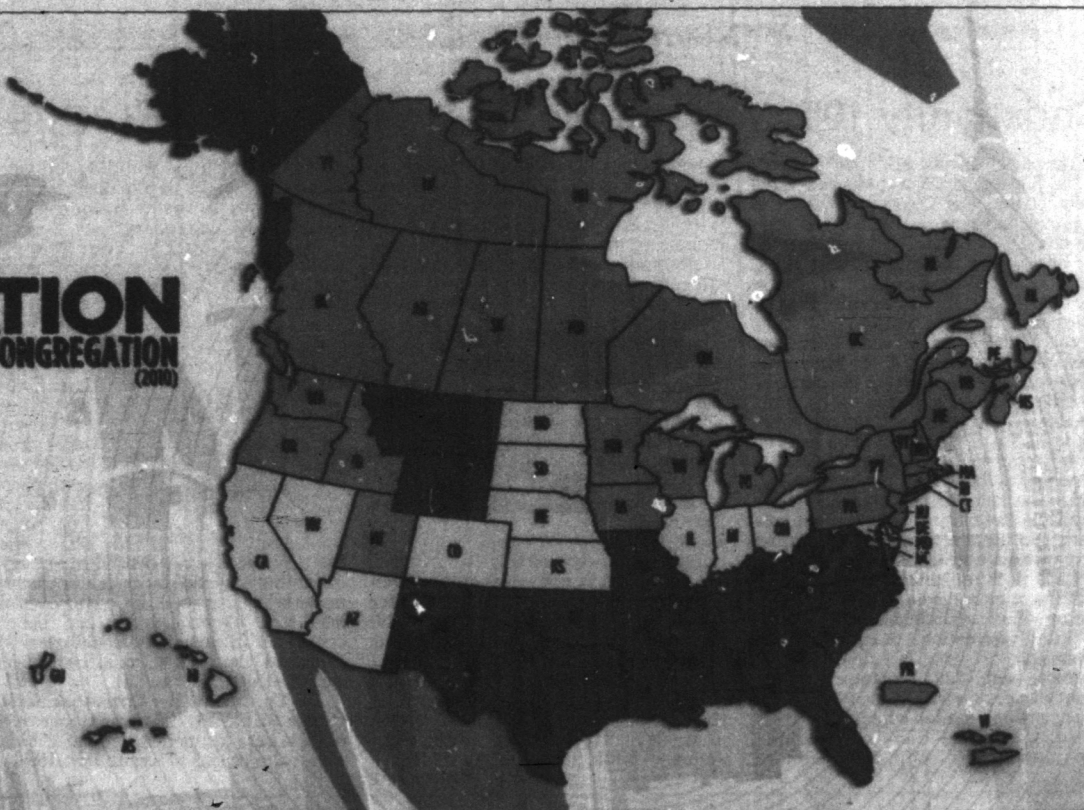
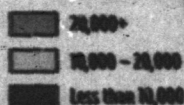
May 2; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Mark Thrift, speaker; Jerry Bishop, music.

► **Puckett Church, Puckett:** Revival, May 6 - 9; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Mickey Dalrymple, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music.

► **Airport Church, Grenada:** Homecoming, May 6; services, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Gene Foshee, speaker.

► **First Church, Isola:** Revival, Apr. 29 - May 2; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Mickey Dalrymple, speaker; Slater Murphy, music.

POPULATION PER SBC CONGREGATION (2000)



FIRST PERSON:

God, maps charting NAMB efforts

By Kevin Ezell, president
North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Sometimes I am asked how the North American Mission Board (NAMB) is prioritizing its work in North America. There are probably a few different ways we could do that, but I tell people we are letting the numbers draw our map and letting God be our guide.

Here's what I mean by letting the numbers draw our map. One of the best ways to gauge spiritual need in North America is to look at the ratio of congregations to population in a particular area. Missiologists tell us it is best to have at least one congregation for every 1,000 people in an area. One to 500 would be even better.

With that ratio in mind, Southern Baptists are doing pretty well in some areas. For instance, we have one congregation for every 1,404 people in Mississippi. In Alabama it is one for every 1,451. In Arkansas, it is one for every 1,922.

Those numbers are very encouraging. We should celebrate how effective Southern Baptists have been in these states and others in the South, but let's look elsewhere.

Our congregation-to-population ratios change dramatically when we look toward other regions in North America. In Iowa there is only one congregation for every 30,464 people. In Michigan it is one for every 34,318. In the Pennsylvania-South Jersey state convention it's one for every 40,132 people. In New York there are 62,362 people for every one Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) congregation.

In the Minnesota-Wisconsin convention, there is only one SBC congregation for every 75,799 people. That means there

are 54 times more people per SBC congregation in Minnesota-Wisconsin than there are people per SBC congregation in Mississippi.

What a difference a few hundred miles can make!

In Canada, Southern Baptists have only one congregation for every 117,212 people.

These needs are huge and as believers we want to do all we can to give people in all of these areas better access to the Gospel. We need a strategy as we approach such a large task.

With that in mind, NAMB has identified states and provinces in the United States and Canada based on the level of need, which is based on these congregation-to-population ratios.

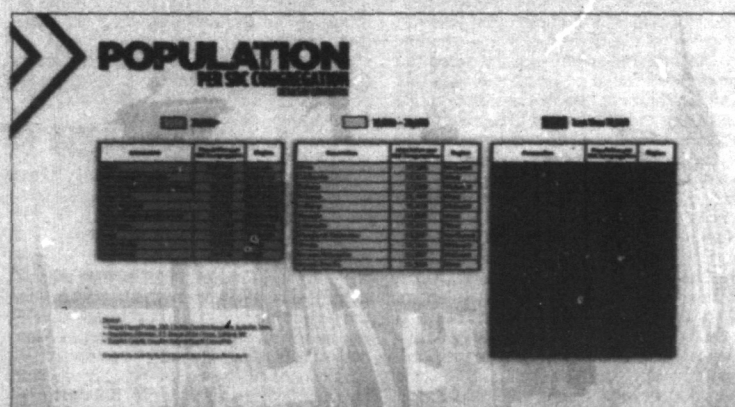
Red states — those with the highest need — are any with ratios higher than one-to-20,000. That includes all of Canada, virtually all of the Northeast, and some states in the Midwest and West.

Yellow states are those with between 10,000 and 20,000 people per SBC congregation. Green states have better than a 1-to-10,000 ratio between people and churches.

It won't surprise you to learn that all of the 13 states in the South region fall into the green category, but you might be surprised by some of the others that show up.

Missouri, West Virginia, Alaska, Montana, Wyoming, and New Mexico all fall into the green category.

Does this mean NAMB will ignore the needs in green states? Absolutely not. We still want to help make churches there stronger and help our partners start churches in population centers where our ratios are lower, but as we seek to penetrate lostness at its highest levels in



North America, we have to look at sheer numbers. That's where the red, yellow and green list will help.

As we look at where most of our funding and church planting resources will go, NAMB must look at red states first. We have to start closing the gap in areas where congregation-to-population ratios are the highest. To impact lostness, we have to give people in those areas better access to the Gospel.

Of course, there are other considerations as we chart this course. In some areas, other evangelical churches are proclaiming the Gospel effectively. The presence of these churches cuts congregation-to-population ratios considerably. We also must realize that just because a church exists doesn't mean it is reaching its com-

munity, so these numbers can only serve as a map as we become more familiar with a particular area.

NAMB's Send North America strategy is informed by these numbers. We are especially concentrating on large cities where Southern Baptist congregation-to-population ratios have slipped the most in recent decades — but God is our ultimate guide. That's why we are keeping some of our budget flexible so when we see God's activity in a particular state or region, we can move quickly to get more funds and more missionaries to that place.

If we let the numbers make our map and let God be our guide, I believe Southern Baptists will be on a better track for penetrating lostness where it looms largest in North America.